

USAMPS Weekly Bible Study
25 January 2011

Just Go: I'll Tell Where Later

(Please read Genesis chapter 12)

In the first recorded conversation God has with Abram he tells him to "Leave your country and go where I will show you."

Do you think this was the first conversation between God and Abram? I do not believe this was the first conversation God had with Abram. As in all relationships they first start with an introduction. Information is exchanged between people and with time the introduction builds into a friendship. One strong component to friendships is trust. God and Abram's relationship had developed to a degree that a dynamic suggestion could be considered an appropriate alternative.

Is there any significance in God telling Abram to leave his country and family? (verse 1)

There is a great significance to God telling Abram to leave. All of this happens in God's timing and by his direction. Abram leaves his country and family; all he knows and those who he knows and who know him best. He leaves his comfort zone. He leaves a country that had already become idolatrous and defiled. In this one sentence God tells Abram to trust in Him alone. God takes Abram away because He has somewhere else and something else for Abram to go. The time has come; Abram is ready prepared to begin the journey.

Why did God not divulge the destination or specifics for the journey? God says, "If you trust me; let's go." God guides us while we are moving. We do not have the rest of the discussion but Abram obviously decides to go without needing the specifics for the journey? How would we react to this encounter? We will not go or will be hesitant to move unless we trust the one who is directing us.

Who and what did Abram take with him for the journey? (vs. 4-5) Abram took his wife and nephew. Abram took some time preparing to leave. This was not a secret departure. He shared the idea with family and maybe his close friends. His nephew decides to go on the journey. Maybe this is an act of faith. It could just as easily be a situation where Lot did not have any reason to stay so any alternative sounded good to him. Lot might have said, "Maybe I will have fun or find myself on this adventure." Abram, Sarai and Lot took everything they possessed. They burned the bridges behind them and sold out for God's plan up ahead.

When God told Abram "this is the land I will give to your descendants" why did Abram keep moving? Abram heard what God had said and built an altar to worship Him there. He then continued on because there was a famine in the land. (vs. 10) Picture this God stops Abram to let him get a look at a dry and barren land and says "Here it is. This is what I brought you here for.

This is it.” Are you serious? But we need to learn something here. This land and the descendants were not ready yet. This final destination was a future experience.

6. How did Abram respond to the conversations with God?

Trust and obedience

7. How do we learn to trust God more?

God did not divulge the destination or specifics for the journey. Abram didn't need it. God said it and he left everything he knew and relied on. Sounds like something God does with us sometimes, too. When faced with the unknown we cannot help but lean on God more than before.